

BEATEN—BUT WYCOMBE

Wycombe W 3 Spurs 4

WYCOMBE'S enthusiasm and vigour made Spurs fight all the way for victory in a friendly match which produced seven goals, two penalties, and some of the best football seen on the ground this season.

With Medwin and Aitchinson in lively form on the wings, and John Smith, the Under-23 international, roving in a dominating role at left half, Spurs kept the initiative for much of the game.

But Wycombe's close marking and prompt tackling upset their marksmanship and Ken Brown was in excellent form in Wanderers' goal.

Medwin and centre-half Ryden put Spurs ahead in the first half-hour, but they missed several other good chances, and Wycombe hit back before half time with a goal from right-winger Rockell after

TEST SPURS

Hollowbread had stopped a brilliant shot by Tomlin.

Beck missed a penalty for Wycombe early in the second half and the enterprising Medwin increased Spurs' lead.

But diehard Wycombe, inspired by a hard-working half-back line, rallied again. Skipper Paul Bates scored from a second penalty and got a third goal through Rockell shortly after Clayton had collected Spurs' fourth.

WANDERERS MAKE TOTTENHAM STARS FIGHT FOR IT

IN bright and breezy Christmas holiday mood, Wycombe Wanderers delighted their followers on Saturday by their form against Tottenham Hotspur's powerful London Combination side in a friendly match which produced some of the best football seen at Loakes Park this season. Spurs won 4-3.

For the star-studded Spurs side—including three internationals and several who have figured prominently in the Tottenham senior team—it was certainly no leisurely training outing. The Wanderers, true to tradition, produced their best and shook the professionals with a hard-hitting second half rally in a fast-moving game of seven goals, two penalties and some entertaining duels between the leading rival amateur and professional personalities.

Particular interest was centred on the clash of Spurs' left-half, John Smith, the under-23 international, and the Wycombe star, Len Worley, former Spurs amateur. Smith was perhaps the outstanding figure on the field, sound in defence yet roving far and wide as architect of many of the professionals' most menacing raids—but he found quicksilver Len Worley a rare handful and was often outwitted in the encounters between them.

BATES SHINES

Yet even Worley was eclipsed in the second half by Paul Bates, who time and again eluded the formidable opposition of Marchi and Hills to get the Wycombe front line in motion.

He had excellent support from Jackie Tomlin, making a welcome re-appearance on the Wycombe left wing.

The home defence, too, withstood remarkably well the test imposed by Spurs' high-powered front line, in which international right winger Terry Medwin sparkled brightly.

Weaver, recalled to the senior side to take over the centre-half hot seat, had a particularly good day, and John Beck and Dave Worley both won plaudits in many an entertaining duel. But the Wanderers' hero, when Spurs speedy forward combination kept the home goal under siege, was Ken Brown, whose keen anticipation and agility baulked the Tottenham marksmen time and again.

WYCOMBE HIT BACK

Medwin and centre-half Ryden put the professionals ahead in the first half-an-hour, when it looked as though the Spurs' superior speed and ball control would give them a runaway win.

But the home defence improved steadily as the game progressed and before half-time Rockell, showing a turn of speed which often nonplussed Welsh international Mel Hopkins, dashed up to score after Hollowbread had stopped a brilliant shot by Tomlin.

Beck hit the upright with a penalty kick awarded early in the second half for a foul on Bates and twelve minutes after the resumption Medwin added a third for Spurs with a classic left-foot drive.

Tottenham, however, were not to be allowed to coast home to a comfortable prestige victory. Bates, inspiration of a Wycombe revival which brought a succession of thrills in all-out attacks, was brought down again in one of his determined solo runs. This time he took the kick himself—and made no mistake.

And even after Clayton had restored the Spurs' two-goal advantage with a powerful drive which found the mark through a goalmouth crowd, Wycombe continued to harass Hollowbread, and one of the best moves of the game, again initiated by the busy Bates, enabled Rockell to score again after the 'keeper had saved from Bressington.

Wycombe — K. Brown; J. Beck, D. Atkins; D. Thomas, J. Weaver, D. Worley; M. Rockell, L. Worley, S. Bressington, P. Bates, J. Tomlin.

Tottenham — Hollowbread; Hills, Hopkins; Marchi, Ryden, Smith; Medwin, Collins, Saul, Clayton, Aitchinson.